

# Indiana Natural Resources Foundation

Spring, Summer 2009

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## Director's Column

Since 1990, the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation has served as the not-for-profit charity supporting and sustaining the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

In early 2008 the Board took a bold step and began a quest for their first, full-time Executive Director. By April the decision had been made and I brought my not-for-profit experience and passion for the outdoors to the team. Since then we have worked diligently to create and implement a strategic plan, to improve our communications and to better recognize you, our supporters.

The Foundation's mission is unchanged. We will work to protect and restore Indiana's natural heritage. Our goals for 2009 – 2010 focus on making us more effective in land acquisition, habitat restoration and conservation education.

Our deep forests,

steep hills and dramatic landscapes are home to an incredible diversity of wildlife. It is amazing to realize how we almost lost it all - at one point, Indiana had no deer, turkeys, otters, bald eagles, or even Canadian geese! And, it only took 40 years to clear-cut the State and drain our wetlands.

But since that time individuals, organizations and corporations have worked with the DNR to help save our last remaining wild places and to reintroduce and protect our natural species.

Since our founding, we have provided **over \$1 million dollars to support land acquisition, habitat restoration and education in Indiana. We have also protected and restored over 9,000 acres of vital habitat**, but much work remains. The opportunities for protection and the need for conservation education continue to grow at a frenetic

pace. We also continue to realize the benefits of natural places for respite, recreation and even inspiration.

This newsletter is one of our new tools to keep you informed on both the successes and the challenges we face. We've also redesigned our website to be more informative and we would love your feedback.

**You can find us online at [www.IndianaNRF.org](http://www.IndianaNRF.org).** You can also find our strategic plan, goals and a list of our successes.

Our success depends on you and I thank you for your support. You can always reach me by phone at 317-234-5447 or email [bpatt@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bpatt@dnr.IN.gov) to share ideas, opportunities or just to get to know each other. Together we are protecting and restoring a wild and diverse Indiana and I look forward to regularly sharing our progress with you.

Sincerely,

*Bourke E. Patton*

Bourke E. Patton



Bourke at Turkey Run in February, 2009.

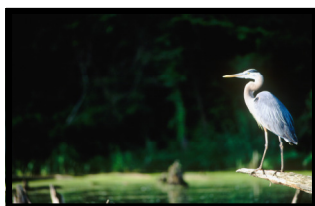
## Partnering for Conservation Education by Mary Hayes, Project WILD Coordinator

When educators, a DNR property manager, and local volunteers finished a recent workshop full of enthusiasm, no one had any idea how quickly things would take off. How did one workshop turn into a robust collaboration between a DNR property, a 'Friends' group, high school biology students and 100 first graders? Here's how...

On April 17 and 18, 2008, Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area was the site of a workshop that featured teacher training on Project Webfoot, a wetlands-based activity kit, and Flying WILD, a set of activities about birds.

The workshop was sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and was conducted by Project WET and

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**Since 1990, the  
Indiana Natural  
Resources  
Foundation has  
helped protect and  
restore over 9,000  
acres across the  
State of Indiana.**



## Supporting Members

The following represents donations from individuals for operations, special projects, and sponsorships from September 2008 – April 2009

John Bassemier	Cory & Diane Helm	Charlotte Redeker
Phil & Jessie Bloom	Roy G. Hendricks Jr.	Ian & Mimi Rolland
Thomas E. Boller	Frank Hemly	Bob & Missi Sawtelle
C. Sam Bond	Eugenia Hermann	Larry & Linda Schaper
Mary Bookwalter	James Holcomb	John & Nancy Schaur
Tobias Buck	Gerald & Mary Ann Hubbs	Ruth Ann & Louis Sellers
Laurie Christie	Dr. Janice Jean	Connie Seymour
Judith H. Cieslak	Mary & Bruce Kramer	Phyllis Simpkins
Joe Collins	Gregory & Jane Latz	Brad Skillman
Robert & Connee Compton	Deb Lawrence	Betsy Smith & James Ganney
John & Kathy Davis	Roger & Cynthia Lemmen	Don & Gretel Smith
John Endress	Charlotte Lunde	Donald E. Sporleder
Phil French	Carmen L. Megonnell	John & Carol Stelle
James Glass	Robert & Judi Meranda	Harry Lee &
David C. Glenn	Ginger Murphy	Rhea Dawn Thomas
R. Douglas &	Ernest E. Owens	Amanda & Andy Wuestefeld
Barbara B. Grant	Bourke and Alex Patton	
Nick Heinzelman	Brian R. Pickens	

## Corporations & Foundations

The following represents donations from corporations and foundations for operations, special projects, and sponsorships from September 2008 – April 2009.

American Camp Association  
American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 122  
B and K of Corydon, Inc.  
Ball Brothers Foundation  
Bartholomew Co. Public Library Associates  
Chapter Tops Indiana, 1344  
Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust  
Franklin County High School Teachers  
Greater Wabash River RC&D Inc  
Indiana Deer Hunters Association  
Indiana Friends of the NRA  
Indiana Heritage Trust  
J.B. & A. Advertising, Inc.  
Liberty Shell Station  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Natural Resource Professionals, LLC  
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust  
Orr and Associates  
Overtime Sports Bar & Grill  
Pohlar Fabrics & Custom Weaving  
Purdue CES Education Fund, Clark County  
Remington Arms Co. Inc.  
Selkirks Liquors  
Union County Foundation, Inc.  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Inc. Post 1472  
Vision Investment Group, Inc.  
Waste Management  
Weatherby Foundation International  
Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve Society  
Whitewater Valley Chapter NWTF

## Honors & Memorials

The following represents honor and memorial gifts made from September 2008 – April 2009.

### In Memory of Charles Bookwalter

Mary Bookwalter

### In memory of John Prough

Aunt Jeri, Bill & Betsy Bigler  
The Bontrager Family  
Larry Harrell  
Phil Holdred  
Brenda Kramer  
Bill & Sharon Malone

### In memory of Edward S. Sawtelle

D. Marlene Bilyou  
Paul and Linda Bradbury  
Rolene and Marion Brown  
Dan Cade  
Bud and Grace Cairns  
Frank and Silea Crosier  
Michael and Marge Erisman  
Robert and Pat Flowers  
Leslie Grow  
Joyce and Don Lambert  
Neil and Elaine Mays  
Joseph K. Meyers  
James and Susan Mikel  
Judith O'Bannon  
Bourke and Alex Patton  
Charles and Sharon Reeve  
Sam and Betty Shine and Bob Shine  
Jim and Mary Ann Swander  
Evelyn Taylor  
Tim, Kathy, James and Kristy Twitchell  
Ruby Sadefur, Junice Ehrlich and  
Bernice Wood  
Donald Zonns

## Conservation Education Contd.

by Mary Hayes

Project WILD, conservation education programs of the IDNR housed at the Natural Resources Education Center (NREC). Attended by 25 people, the training brought together the perfect mix of visionaries, including Susan Anderson, a teacher who later decided to bring her Linton-Stockton first graders to Goose Pond for a field trip: "First graders are studying living organisms, non-living organisms and habitat in science. We're using Goose Pond as a resource... there are a lot of learning opportunities here." (Greene County Daily World. 9/24/08)

Property manager, Brad Feaster designed the program, the Friends of Goose Pond supplied volunteers, and thirty local high school biology students helped with insect identification. The first graders dipped for aquatic insects, played Food Chain Tag, and practiced their birding skills. They enjoyed spontaneous adventures also – catching crickets, holding caterpillars, and searching for woolly worms.

With ongoing help from local volunteers, Friends of Goose Pond, and equipment from Project WET, Feaster has spun that first visit into subsequent opportunities for both educators and students. Since April 2008, over 400 students have visited the property. On every occasion, students interact with the resource, whether it's digging in the mud, viewing waterfowl through a spotting scope, or examining a mayfly in a bug viewer. It is every conservation educator's hope that experiences like these cultivate curiosity and a spirit of stewardship. In the words of one workshop participant, "I love nature... I want to instill that passion in my students to work for conservation and preservation for their future generations."

This is just one example of conservation education at work within the DNR. In all of their work, DNR educators strive to build a diverse, informed and active constituency that values natural resources. They do this by providing high quality conservation education programs, utilizing direct experiences to connect citizens with their natural and cultural resources, and facilitating communications between the DNR and Hoosiers about our natural heritage.

Programs range from curriculum education workshops like Project Webfoot and Flying WILD, to citizen science trainings, to skill-based programs that teach families to fish. Because of these diverse approaches, DNR can meet the needs of educators, parents, youth, youth organizations, and even entire communities.

While participants tell the NREC staff that their work is paying off, the numbers also reflect this. In 2008, the conservation education programs at the NREC reached 2,890 people through workshops, 11,506 people through presentations, and 115,448 at exhibits.

2009 is proving to be another busy year as the NREC creates new projects and builds on previous ones. There's something for everyone at the NREC, so be sure to go to this online calendar to find all of the listings: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/nrec/3068.htm>.

**"I love nature... I want to instill that passion in my students to work for conservation and preservation for their future generations."**

### Did you know?

#### The Indiana Natural Resources Foundation:

- was a key partner in the acquisition and ongoing restoration of Goose Pond.
- has raised funds to correlate Natural Resources Education Center programs with the State of Indiana's K—12 curriculum.





402 West Washington St.  
W256  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

[www.IndianaNRF.org](http://www.IndianaNRF.org)

Phone: 317-234-5447  
Fax: 317-233-6811  
E-mail: [bpatton@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bpatton@dnr.IN.gov)

## Indiana Natural Resources Foundation

### Welcome!

Welcome to the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation newsletter! This is a new tool to keep you informed and to recognize our key supporters. We are excited to report on our goals and share with you our successes and our challenges. Through the newsletter you will learn in-depth information on the programs we fund and the partnerships which lead to our success. You'll also find out about opportunities for you and your family to volunteer and special programs the Foundation is involved in. We hope you enjoy our inaugural issue!

### Congratulations

Brett Jordan of Solsberry and Lu Swartz of Corydon are the two lucky winners from our giveaway at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show. Brett and Lu both won camping gift certificates, a State Park Annual Entrance Permit and a subscription to Outdoor Indiana.

### Save the Date

#### **Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame Banquet** **Friday, September 25, 2009**

Throughout our history, men and women have made extraordinary contributions to the conservation and preservation of Indiana's natural and cultural heritage. Mark your calendar so you can join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and induct our inaugural Hall of Fame class! Purchase your tickets online at [www.IndianaNRF.org](http://www.IndianaNRF.org).

#### **The Hoosier Outdoor Experience**

**September 26—27, 2009**

Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis

A free, hands-on opportunity for children and adults to try all things outdoors under the safety and guidance of professionals!

**[HoosierOutdoorExperience.IN.gov](http://HoosierOutdoorExperience.IN.gov)**